

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-12 were pending. Claims 1-12 stand rejected, but claims 10 and 11 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Pursuant to this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, claim 11 has been cancelled, and new claim 13 has been added. Claims 1-10 and 12-13 remain pending.

The drawings stand objected to as the Examiner as indicated that the limitation of the grounding screw extending over the raised annular ridge and along the conical portion must be shown in the drawings. This objection is respectfully traversed as this limitation is already clearly shown in Figure 2. As explained in paragraph [18] in conjunction with Figure 2 of the subject application, the head of the screw 12 sits atop the ridge 34, extending over the ridge 34 and along the conical portion 28. Thus, removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as the Examiner is not sure if claims 10 and 11 are directed towards the washer or the combination of the washer, the screw and the terminal. The claims of the subject application are directed towards the washer itself. However, the structure of the washer is further explained in relation to its cooperation with a screw and terminal. Only the washer is positively recited in the claims. The claims of the subject application were drafted in this manner to capture would be infringers of the washer itself. It is respectfully suggested that the claims are clear and distinctly claim the subject matter for which the applicant desires protection in accordance with standard patent office rules and regulations. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takenouchi et al. (USPN 5,201,625) and Lesslie (USPN 5,628,587). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by Takenouchi et al. and Lesslie, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to, now cancelled, claim 11. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-10 and 12 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

New claim 13 has been added. New claim 13 includes the limitations of original claim 1 and objected to claim 10. Thus, claim 13 is also in condition for allowance.

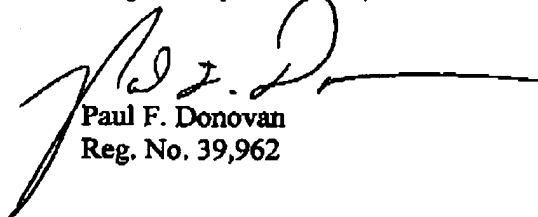
No new matter has been added to the subject application by way of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Reconsideration of the rejected claims and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that to be addressed, in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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